

**I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An automated database management method for a database comprising one or more database objects, the method comprising:
  - associating ~~one or more policies or definitions~~ management criteria with the database ~~for managing to manage~~ database objects;
  - determining actions to be performed on one or more database objects to modify the one or more database objects based on the ~~one or more policies or definitions~~ management criteria;
  - modifying the one or more database objects by performing the actions on the database objects;
  - monitoring results of modifying the database objects; ~~and~~
  - reconfiguring the ~~one or more policies or definitions~~ management criteria associated with the database based on the results of modifying the database objects;
  - collecting statistics relating to operation of the database; and
  - determining characteristics of the database objects.
2. (Currently Amended) The database management method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - automatically determining a schedule ~~for performing to perform~~ the actions on the database objects,
  - wherein the performing the actions on the database objects comprises performing the actions on the database objects based on the schedule.

3. (Original) The database management method of claim 2, wherein the performing the actions on the database objects based on the schedule comprises automatically performing the actions on the database objects based on the schedule.
4. (Original) The database management method of claim 1, further comprising:  
confirming the performing the actions on the database objects.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) The database management method of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises automatically determining the characteristics of the database objects.
7. (Currently Amended) The database management method of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the determining the actions to be performed on the database objects comprises determining the actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the database objects.
8. (Original) The database management method of claim 7, wherein the determining the actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the database objects comprises automatically determining the actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the database objects.
9. (Currently Amended) The database management method of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the statistics comprise object-level statistics.
10. (Currently Amended) The database management method of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the statistics comprise activity-level statistics.

11. (Currently Amended) The database management method of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises determining the characteristics of the database objects using the collected statistics.
12. (Currently Amended) The database management method of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises determining the characteristics of the database objects using ~~the~~ one or more policies in the management criteria.
13. (Currently Amended) The database management method of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises determining the characteristics of the database objects using ~~the~~ one or more definitions in the management criteria.
14. (Currently Amended) The database management method of claim 1, further comprising: customizing ~~the~~ one or more definitions in the management criteria.
15. (Currently Amended) The database management method of claim 1, further comprising: customizing ~~the~~ one or more policies in the management criteria.

16. (Currently Amended) A ~~carrier-medium program storage device~~ comprising program instructions ~~stored thereon for a database comprising one or more database objects~~, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to cause a programmable control device to implement:

associating ~~one or more policies or definitions~~ management criteria with ~~the a database~~  
for managing to manage database objects of the database;

determining actions to be performed on one or more of the database objects to modify the  
one or more database objects based on the ~~one or more policies or definitions~~  
management criteria;

modifying the one or more database objects by performing the actions on the database  
objects;

monitoring results of modifying the database objects; ~~and~~

reconfiguring the ~~one or more policies or definitions~~ management criteria associated with  
the database based on the results of modifying the database objects;  
collecting statistics relating to operation of the database; and  
determining characteristics of the database objects.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~carrier-medium program storage device~~ of claim 16, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

automatically determining a schedule ~~for performing to perform~~ the actions on the  
database objects,

wherein the performing the actions on the database objects comprises performing the  
actions on the database objects based on the schedule.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~carrier-medium program storage device~~ of claim 17, wherein the performing the actions on the database objects based on the schedule comprises automatically performing the actions on the database objects based on the schedule.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~earlier-medium~~ program storage device of claim 16, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

confirming the performing the actions on the database objects.

20. (Cancelled) .

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~earlier-medium~~ program storage device of claim [[20]] 16, wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises automatically determining the characteristics of the database objects.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~earlier-medium~~ program storage device of claim [[20]] 16, wherein the determining the actions to be performed on the database objects comprises determining the actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the database objects

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~earlier-medium~~ program storage device of claim 22, wherein the determining the actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the database objects comprises automatically determining the actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the database objects.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~earlier-medium~~ program storage device of claim [[20]] 16, wherein the statistics comprise object-level statistics.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~earlier-medium~~ program storage device of claim [[20]] 16, wherein the statistics comprise activity-level statistics.

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~earlier-medium~~ program storage device of claim [[20]] 16, wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises determining the characteristics of the database objects using the collected statistics.

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~earlier-medium~~ program storage device of claim [[20]] 16, wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises determining the characteristics of the database objects using ~~the~~ one or more policies in the management criteria.

28. (Currently Amended) The ~~earlier-medium~~ program storage device of claim [[20]] 16, wherein the determining the characteristics of the database objects comprises determining the characteristics of the database objects using ~~the~~ one or more definitions in the management criteria.

29. (Currently Amended) The ~~earlier-medium~~ program storage device of claim 16, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:  
customizing ~~the~~ one or more definitions in the management criteria.

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~earlier-medium~~ program storage device of claim 16, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement: customizing ~~the~~ one or more policies in the management criteria.

31. (Currently Amended) A database management system comprising:
- a CPU;
  - a database coupled to the CPU, wherein the database comprises one or more database objects; and
  - a memory coupled to the CPU, wherein the memory stores program instructions which are executable by the CPU to:
    - associate ~~one or more policies or definitions~~ management criteria with the database ~~for managing to manage~~ database objects;
    - determine actions to be performed on the database objects to modify the database objects based on the ~~one or more policies or definitions~~ management criteria;
    - modify the database objects by performing the actions on the database objects;
    - monitor results of modifying the database objects; ~~and~~
    - reconfigure the ~~one or more policies or definitions~~ management criteria associated with the database based on the results of modifying the database objects;
    - collect statistics relating to operation of the database; and
    - determine characteristics of the database objects.
32. (Currently Amended) The database management system of claim 31, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:
- automatically determine a schedule ~~for performing to perform~~ the actions on the database objects,
  - wherein in performing the actions on the database objects, the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to perform the actions on the database objects based on the schedule.

33. (Original) The database management system of claim 32, wherein in performing the actions on the database objects based on the schedule, the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to automatically perform the actions on the database objects based on the schedule.

34. (Original) The database management system of claim 31, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:  
confirm the performing the actions on the database objects.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) The database management system of claim ~~[[35]]~~ 31, wherein in determining the characteristics of the database objects, the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to automatically determine the characteristics of the database objects.

37. (Currently Amended) The database management system of claim ~~[[35]]~~ 31, wherein in determining the actions to be performed on the database objects, the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to determine the actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the database objects.

38. (Original) The database management system of claim 37, wherein in determining the actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the database objects, the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to automatically determine the actions to be performed on the database objects based on the characteristics of the database objects.

39. (Currently Amended) The database management system of claim ~~[[35]]~~ 31, wherein the statistics comprise object-level statistics.



40. (Currently Amended) The database management system of claim [[35]] 31, wherein the statistics comprise activity-level statistics.

41. (Currently Amended) The database management system of claim [[35]] 31, wherein in determining the characteristics of the database objects, the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to determine the characteristics of the database objects using the collected statistics.

42. (Currently Amended) The database management system of claim [[35]] 31, wherein in determining the characteristics of the database objects, the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to determine the characteristics of the database objects using ~~the~~ one or more policies in the management criteria.

43. (Currently Amended) The database management system of claim [[35]] 31, wherein in determining the characteristics of the database objects, the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to determine the characteristics of the database objects using ~~the~~ one or more definitions in the management criteria.

44. (Currently Amended) The database management system of claim 31, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:  
customize ~~the~~ one or more definitions in the management criteria.

45. (Currently Amended) The database management system of claim 31, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to: customize ~~the~~ one or more policies in the management criteria.